



3240 Fort Road • Toppenish, WA 98948
(509) 865-8500

Date: October 6, 2015

Contact: David Mance, Media Relations Coordinator, 509-969-6084 or mance_d@heritage.edu.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Heritage University Offers Scholarships to Valley's Brightest Students for Third Straight Year

Toppenish, Wash. – Heritage University is offering full-tuition scholarships to the valley's best and brightest students for a third year.

Heritage University re-opened "HUSoar.com," a website specifically for students who want to find out more about Heritage and the opportunities it presents to students. At HUSoar.com, prospective college students can apply for one of five merit-based scholarships. The scholarships are open to all first time Heritage University students, whether high school graduates or transfer students.

The Soar merit scholarship program began in 2013. The winners to date include Jessica Alvarez, Wapato High School, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM); Elizabeth Bahe, Eisenhower High School, humanities; Nereyda Barajas, Sunnyside High School, education; Teanna Bentley, East Valley High School, business; Jonathan Peralta, Eisenhower High School, nursing; Mireya Cruz, freshman, Heritage University, biomedical sciences major; Lindsey Keesling, junior, Heritage University, English major; Alessa Bryant, CWU & WWU, biomedical science; Estafania Guerrero, Granger High School, nursing; Kaneeta Jeffrey-Zack, Toppenish High School, undecided; Jiovanna Lamas, Wapato High School, Mathematics; Idalis Licea, Zillah High School, Nursing; Lisalyn Tormey, Riverside Christian High School, medicine; Anthony Tzib, Prosser High School, visual arts; Cynthia Vargas, Eisenhower High School, elementary education; Maria Villanueva, Davis High School, biochemistry; and Valentin Zaragoza, Toppenish High School, PA Program.

"Having a well-educated workforce is vital to any community's success, and we at Heritage University are committed to developing the talent we have in the Valley," said Celestino Limas, VP of Student Affairs & Enrollment at Heritage. "The SOAR Scholarship provides the opportunity for the Valley's

best and brightest to not only achieve a rigorous academic experience but also explore the other co-curricular programs that complement their learning experience at Heritage.”

Winning a full-tuition Soar Scholarship was very exciting for LisaLyn Tormey, but the chance to study medicine while staying home in the Yakima Valley was even more thrilling. “I had considered another school with a pre-med program similar to Heritage’s, but the Soar Scholarship means I can become a doctor and make a difference right here at home.”

Soar Scholarship winner Anthony Tzib also considered other schools that offered him scholarships, but staying close to home while earning a degree was important to him. “Thanks to Soar, I get to go to college without having to leave the place I love,” says Tzib. “It makes me feel good because I am close to the people that mean the world to me, my family.”

Going to college at Heritage University is much more than simply taking classes towards a degree; Heritage students get to participate in curriculum that goes beyond the textbook. For example, business administration students win business competitions against the nation’s most elite colleges; education students earn their degrees by doing on-the job training at local schools; and nursing students help with free immunization programs in their communities.

Applications for Soar Scholarships are due February 1, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. Applications will be scored based on four criteria: high school or college grades; PSAT/SAT or ACT Scores; a personal commitment statement; and the strength of a letter of recommendation. Finalists will be notified by March 1, 2016, and be invited to campus for an in-person interview with Heritage University faculty and staff as a closing round to determine the Soar Scholarship winners. A minimum of five scholarships will be awarded by Heritage. Should the applicant pool merit additional awards, more scholarships may be given. Our new application found at HuSoar.com makes applying for the Soar Scholarship much faster and easier.

Questions about the information contained in this press release should be directed to David Wise, Vice President of Marketing and Communications, 509-865-0717 or wise_d@heritage.edu.

#

Heritage University is a non-profit, independent, regionally accredited institution of higher education offering undergraduate and graduate education across the state of Washington. Visit our website, www.heritage.edu.